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2013 Fluoridation Equipment Grant Final Report

The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) Oral Health Program released a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Fluoridation Equipment Grants October 1, 2012 with applications due February 8, 2013. MDCH would like to thank Delta Dental for the generous gift of \$100,000 to support these grants.

This proposal allowed communities to apply for funding for new or replacement fluoridation equipment purchased between April 1, 2013 and September 15, 2013. The RFP was sent to all non-fluoridated drinking water systems with populations over 3000. It was also promoted through the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, the Michigan Section of the American Water Works Association, the State of Michigan website, the Oral Health Program website, and the Michigan Oral Health Coalition.

Fourteen communities sent in applications, all for replacement equipment. A competitive process to review and score the applications took place on February 22, 2013. Based on the final scores, and with revisions of the requests, the Oral Health Program was able to offer awards to 9 applicants to replace worn out fluoridation equipment. The grant awards were determined by final team scores and with the assistance of Pat Cook, Drinking Water Specialist from the Department of Environmental Quality.

The grantees had a contract period of April 1, 2013 through September 15, 2013 to purchase the requested equipment. They then had six months to have the equipment installed and operational on a daily basis. This report highlights each grantee with type of equipment purchased, award allocation received, final reports submitted, and information from the final evaluation surveys. (See attachment at end of this report for evaluation survey).

Listed below are the nine 2013 grantees with amount requested, amount awarded, and amount used.

Name of Water System	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded	Amount Used
City of Battle Creek	\$24,000	\$18,775	\$18,775
City of Benton Harbor	\$2667	\$2667	\$2667
City of Fenton	\$1154.81	\$1154.81	\$1154.81

Frenchtown Charter Township	\$11,467.28	\$8759.48	\$7517.48
City of Kalamazoo	\$8076	\$8076	\$7714
City of Marquette	\$24,000	\$24,000	\$24,000
Plainfield Charter Township	\$12,522	\$12,522	\$12,522
City of St. Ignace	\$7297	\$7297	\$7297
Traverse City	\$24,000	\$23,203	\$23,203
Totals:	\$117,862	\$106,454	\$104,850

City of Battle Creek:

The City of Battle Creek has a population of over 90,000 and was one of larger population communities to apply for the grant. They submitted a very neat, spiral bound application including a well written request with pictures of the old equipment. They originally requested the full grant amount, \$24,000. Due to the high volume of applicants, we reduced their award to \$18,775, based on the removal of lab equipment and installation costs. We did approve funding for chemical and transfer pumps, starters, some piping valves and a scale. They submitted their final invoices on time but installation is not yet installed and operational due to a conversion project in a design phase. The project is expected to be constructed and completed in the summer of 2014. They received reimbursement from MDCH September 20, 2013. The MDCH will follow through in August 2014 to make sure the equipment is being utilized. From their evaluation survey, they mostly agreed with each statement except for the length of time for installation due to their exceptional circumstances. They strongly agreed that their questions regarding the grant were answered to their satisfaction. Comments: *“Regarding the 6 month installation and operation timeframe, in most cases this is likely adequate. In our case, we are combining the fluoride installation work with a sodium hypochlorite conversion project which has had to go through a detailed design phase that has delayed the installation and operation of the fluoride equipment.”*

City of Benton Harbor:

The City of Benton Harbor, population 10,783, has been going through some financial difficulties so we were eager to help. They received the top score in the review process but only asked for minimal funding (\$2667) to repair existing equipment to pump from the bulk storage tank into the fluoride feed room. They had not been fluoridating since December of 2012 due to this problem and were under a spending moratorium from the state appointed financial emergency manager. They were able to work

with an existing vendor for hold of payment until these grant funds were allocated for the wiring and installation project to get the fluoridation system up and running again. They were happy with receiving the funding in September 2013 and had the system in working order soon after. They strongly agreed with all statements in the evaluation survey with the comment: *"The electronic transfer (of funds) to the city for reimbursement worked well except for knowing exactly when the transfer occurred."*

City of Fenton:

With a population over 10,000, the City of Fenton was in need of a new fluoride feed pump. The replacement pump in storage was 20 years old, and newer pumps are available with automatic priming valves to reduce handling of fluoride compound. Fenton did not ask for much, (\$1154), just a small request for funding to replace the existing pump with something more current and safer. They were one of the first grantees to purchase the equipment and have it installed and operational by August 2013. Stephen Guy was the contact for the city on this project and a pleasure to work with. He strongly agreed with each statement on the evaluation survey with this comment, *"The whole process seemed quick and smooth."*

Frenchtown Charter Township:

Frenchtown Charter Township, in Monroe County, services a community of over 20,000 residents. They had not been fluoridating for several months due to some problems with the bulk storage tank. This grant was an opportune time for them to initiate their fluoridation program once again. They wanted to return to a drum fluoride feed system to help eliminate multiple problems they were having with the bulk storage system. We did reduce their amount request of \$11467 to \$8759 by removing the costs for lab equipment and drum dollies due to limited funding on our part. They were more than willing to accept this offer and the new equipment was purchased in September for installation in February of 2014 and operational as of March 2014. They agreed or strongly agreed on all aspects of the evaluation survey with a big *"Thank You!"* in the comments section.

City of Kalamazoo:

The City of Kalamazoo was the largest population that applied for this grant with over 120,000 people accessing the community water supply. Kalamazoo made great use of the funds by purchasing 15 new fluoride feed pumps to accommodate the large service water treatment plant. Thomas Spitzner, the Water Operations and Maintenance Supervisor, gave a great synopsis of their need for this grant in his comments on the evaluation survey. *"The City of Kalamazoo was pleased to receive the fluoride grant reimbursement for purchase of new peristaltic fluoride feed pumps. The existing equipment was mismatched and required continual maintenance to keep things operating correctly. We purchased the new peristaltic type feed pumps and replaced equipment at every pumping facility located throughout the City of Kalamazoo and the surrounding townships. The City of Kalamazoo's water system serves approximately 120,000 customers. The City of Kalamazoo had an incident a few years back where fluoride back siphoned from a day tank when a station shut down creating a potential fluoride overfeed."*

Thanks to the peristaltic type pumps we purchased, this situation should never occur. I would recommend every Michigan water utility apply for this grant. If not for the grant, replacement of this equipment may not have happened for years to come."

City of Marquette:

The City of Marquette in the Upper Peninsula has over 20,000 people on their community water system. They submitted a very neat, spiral bound application with pictures to stress the need to replace the storage tanks which had been leaking. The tanks, being housed in a lower level of the plant building would be very difficult to replace but the community felt it was a project worth pursuing. Marquette received full funding, \$24,000, to help with the cost of replacing these large storage tanks. They received reimbursement from MDCH in September 2013 and the new storage tanks were installed and operational by March 2014. They strongly agreed with all the statements from the evaluation survey and had these comments: *"I would like to thank Delta Dental and the Michigan Department of Community Health for this program. Through the program, we were able to reach out to residents on the benefits of fluoridation. This was a community project. The Marquette County Dental Association was/is a leader in the continued use of fluoride in the community's water supply. Also, the local media did a great job on reporting the issues in a non-bias way. Marquette did have a few residents against the use of fluoride, however, we were able to address all questions in a very civil manner. Once again, thank you for the grant."*

Plainfield Charter Township:

Plainfield Township services over 40,000 people on their community water system. They submitted a well verified, neat application with a strong reasoning for replacement of old, existing equipment. The newer, requested equipment would help them better monitor and accurately feed fluoride. The awarded \$12,522 went to supply the plant with new pumps, scales, and fluoride analyzer system. Most of the equipment was installed and operational in June 2013. They were still working on installing the analyzer and scale as of March 2014. Susan will follow up on this. From the evaluation survey they indicated they strongly agreed with most statements, with one area about attainability of estimates being less sure. Comments: *"All equipment is on and operating, but we still have to hook the fluoride analyzer and scale to our SCADA system. This program is a great opportunity to install and/or upgrade fluoride equipment. Also, our new fluoride analyzer did not operate properly at first and had to be sent back to factory to be fixed. Everything is good now."*

City of St. Ignace:

This is the second application for the City of St. Ignace. They had applied the previous year but scored low and did not receive any funding. Even though the population is fairly small, with just 3500 residents on the community water supply, we wanted to help them achieve funding as they have fluoridated for over 30 years. Susan worked with the City Manager, Les Therrian, to "spruce up" this year's application so more points could be achieved. They still were low on the scoring grid, mainly, due to population

size, but enough funds were available to award them the grant this year. Because most of the equipment being used for fluoridation was 30 years old, the need to upgrade to newer, safer equipment was recommended by the DEQ. The cost of new equipment caused some city officials to question the benefits of fluoridation. This grant allowed for upgrades without taxing the city budget and the officials rested easier. They purchased 2 new feed pumps, a drum scale, and did some electrical and plumbing work to improve the system. Engineering services were also reimbursed for design improvements. Installation was completed in February 2014 and things are now operational. Mr. Therrian strongly agreed with all evaluation survey statements and had this comment: *"It was a beneficial and yet painless process (except for the first year when we were rejected!!). Thank you."*

Traverse City:

Traverse City, with a population of 14,674 accessing community water, applied for the maximum grant to replace feed pumps, day tanks, and make modifications to their bulk storage system. They had added installation costs but we removed those due to lack of funds to bring their award to \$23,203. In August 2013 we were notified that they wished to revise their grant application to purchase two new storage tanks instead, as theirs were over 30 years old. It was too late to revise the amount of the award but we did allow for the equipment change. This change caused a bit of delay in the overall project timeline but the new storage tanks were purchased and installed by November 2013. The evaluation survey indicated they agreed or strongly agreed to all statements on the survey with the comments: *"Overall, the grant process went very smoothly. Susan Deming was very helpful and the guidelines were well established for the application process. With our particular project schedule, it would have been more convenient to allow more time to use the funds, but we were able to make it work out in the end."*

Lessons learned:

The first few years are always a learning experience and this was the fourth year for the grant. The Oral Health Program continues to evaluate the process and implement improvements for this program. In the 2013 RFP more points were given to those with larger populations and those systems with multiple wells. The RFP did not allow for building or construction costs, and it required estimates from two different sources. The Oral Health staff spent time revising the review criteria for the reviewers to enable ease of scoring.

For the new 2014 grants, the process has been streamlined and improved further with the scoring criteria being more understandable and easier to score. Grantees are also allowed more time for purchasing equipment. The contract period will be from April 1, 2014 through September 15, 2014.

Further effort still needs to focus on non-fluoridated communities and encourage them to apply. This grant is very helpful in updating existing fluoridation programs with replacement equipment but another target is to help fund new fluoridation communities.

As more and more communities look to the safety of their drinking water and as the new recommendation for levels of fluoride added to drinking water systems become the standard, the Oral

Health Program is grateful for the ongoing support and funding from the Delta Dental Foundation for this beneficial program.

For further information please contact:
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2013 Fluoridation Equipment Grant Report

This is a progress report for communities receiving the 2013 Fluoridation Equipment Grant. This should be filled out by the authorized person on the grant application, the water superintendent, operator or treatment engineer in charge of the project within 6 months of the date of invoice submission.

Date:

Name of Water System:

Name and Title of Person Reporting:

Contact Information: (Phone/e-mail):

Award Amount:

Final Purchase Amount:

Date(s) of equipment purchase:

Date(s) of Invoice submission to MDCH:

Was your reimbursement received from MDCH correct? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not received yet

Date reimbursement received: _____

Is equipment installed: ☐ Yes ☐ No Date(s) of installation: _____

If No, when is installation expected to be complete?

Is the fluoridation equipment in current operation? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If No, when is this expected?

Please fill in this short survey on next page to help us in offering future funding opportunities.

2013 Fluoridation Equipment Grant Evaluation

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
The grant application process was clear and easy to follow.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The estimates needed for the grant application were easily attainable.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The required forms for the grant application were easily understood and not difficult to complete.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I received answers to my questions regarding the grant application in a prompt, timely manner to my satisfaction.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I was notified of my grant award in a timely manner to my satisfaction.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There was enough time allocated to purchase the fluoridation equipment from April 1- Sept 15.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reimbursement from MDCH for the purchased equipment was received in a timely manner.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6 months is enough time for installation and operation of the fluoridation equipment.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I would recommend this grant opportunity to other communities.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments:

Please return to Susan Deming as soon as possible or within 6 months of date of invoice submission.

MDCH-Oral Health

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